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TO I.P.E. JCSC  
JAN 17 2003  
IN RE: APPALACHIAN GROUP  
U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER  
(General - Patent Pending)**

Docket No.  
VAIG101

In Reply to Application Of: VIAS

Serial No. 10/004,999	Filing Date 12/07/01	Examiner CHAMBERS	Group Art Unit 3641
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Title: MUZZLE BRAKE

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS:

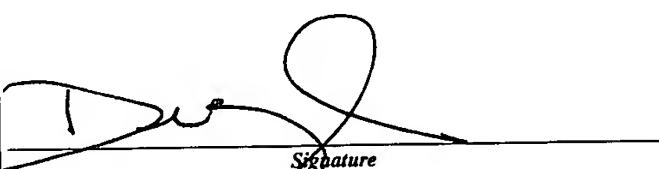
Transmitted herewith is:

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED 12/26/2002  
RETURN RECEIPT POST CARD**

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**GROUP 3600**

in the above identified application.

- No additional fee is required.
- A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is attached.
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
  - Charge the amount of \_\_\_\_\_
  - Credit any overpayment.
  - Charge any additional fee required.

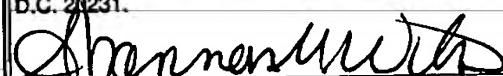


Signature

DEREK H. MAUGHAN  
DYKAS, SHAVER & NIPPER, LLP  
REG. NO. 52,007

Dated: JANUARY 10, 2003

I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on 01/10/03 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.



Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

SHANNON M. WILSON

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

cc: CLIENT



#7/B(4)  
1/28/3  
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Dixon

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: George M. Vais

Group/Art Unit: 3641

Application No.: 10/004,999

Examiner: Troy Chambers

Filed: 12/07/2001

Title: Muzzle Brake

Attorney Docket No: VAIG101

**RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S ACTION**  
**dated: 12/26/2002**

TO: Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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**GROUP 3600**

Dear Commissioner:

In response to the Examiner's Action dated 12/26/02, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**AMENDMENTS**

**In the claims:**

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A muzzle brake for attachment to a firearm muzzle, said muzzle brake for dissipating a recoil force created by discharging said firearm, said muzzle brake comprising:  
a body having a first end adapted for attachment to said muzzle, an outer surface extending from said first end to a second end along a generally longitudinal axis, a central bore having a desired diameter extending through said body along said longitudinal axis, said body defining at least one first elongated opening positioned nearest to said first end as compared to any other